

Good Morning!

North Bend Church

a Global Methodist Congregation

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Because God is worthy we worship

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Prelude

Announcements

BIBLE STUDY: Our last Tuesday morning Bible Study this year will be at 10 a.m. this Tuesday, December 17. We will take a break for the next few weeks, then resume on Tuesday, January 21, with a study of Romans.

CHURCH DIRECTORY: We will publish an updated church directory in January. Please review the lists at the back of the church to add, confirm or update your name, address, phone number, email address and birthday.

FRANK'S TREE: Donations to light Frank's Tree this year will be split between TRAM, our local food pantry, and Hope Restored India, Laura Meyers' ministry. Each \$10 contribution lights one colored bulb. Once all those are lit, representing \$200, a white bulb is turned on. After we reach \$2,000, the entire tree is lit up.

(Are there any other Announcements?)

COME BEFORE THE LORD

***Call to Worship¹**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

People: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

Leader: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

People: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

Leader: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

People: Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God. Amen.

***Singing**

Angels We Have Heard on High

UMH #238

(vs. 1, 2, 3, 4)

**1. Angels we have
heard on high
sweetly singing
o'er the plains,
and the mountains
in reply
echoing their
joyous strains.**

Refrain:

**Glo - - - - - ri - a,
in excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ri - a,
in excelsis Deo!**

**2. Shepherds,
why this jubilee?
Why your joyous
strains prolong?
What the gladsome**

**tidings be
which inspire your
heavenly song?**

Refrain:

**Glo - - - - - ri - a,
in excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ri - a,
in excelsis Deo!**

**3. Come to
Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth
the angels sing;
come, adore
on bended knee,
Christ the Lord,
the newborn King.**

Refrain:

**Glo - - - - - ri - a,
in excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ri - a,**

in excelsis Deo!

**4. See him in
a manger laid,
whom the choirs
of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph,
lend your aid,
while our hearts
in love we raise.**

Refrain:

**Glo - - - - - ri - a,
in excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ri - a,
in excelsis Deo!**

PRAY UNTO THE LORD

***Praying Together¹**

Lord, we come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Joys & Concerns

Silent & Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Anthem

Blessing of Offerings

***Singing** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #95

**Praise God, from whom
all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures
here below;
praise him above,
ye heavenly host;**

**praise Father,
Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

Reading the Scripture

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NIV)

- 1:6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John.
- 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.
- 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.
- 19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.
- 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."
- 21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."
- 22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"
- 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"
- 24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent
- 25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the

Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

26 “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know.

27 He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Proclaiming the Gospel

The One Who Comes After Me

RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

***Singing**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

UMH #240

(vs. 1, 2, 3)

**1. Hark! the herald
angels sing,
“Glory to the
newborn King;
peace on earth,
and mercy mild,**

**God and sinners
reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye
nations rise,
join the triumph
of the skies;
with th’angelic
host proclaim,
“Christ is born
in Bethlehem!”**

Refrain:

**Hark! the herald
angels sing,
“Glory to
the newborn King!”**

**2. Christ, by highest
heaven adored;
Christ, the
everlasting Lord;
late in time
behold him come,
offspring of**

a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh
the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us
in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our
Emmanuel.

Refrain:

Hark! the herald
angels sing,
"Glory to
the newborn King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born
Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun
of Righteousness!
Light and life
to all he brings,
risen with healing
in his wings.
Mild he lays

his glory by,
born that we
no more may die,
born to raise us
from the earth,
born to give
us second birth.

Refrain:

Hark! the herald
angels sing,
“Glory to
the newborn King!”

GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD

***Receiving the Blessing**

Postlude

***Singing**

The Blessing

Kari Jobe

**The Lord bless you
and keep you
Make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His**

**face toward you
And give you peace**

Amen

Amen, Amen

Amen

Amen, Amen

May His favor

be upon you

And a thousand generations

And your family

and your children

And their children,

and their children

Amen

Amen, Amen

Amen

Amen, Amen

¹*From "Worship Connection: December 15, 2024," by Nancy C. Townley, ministrymatters.com*